Women in Alberta

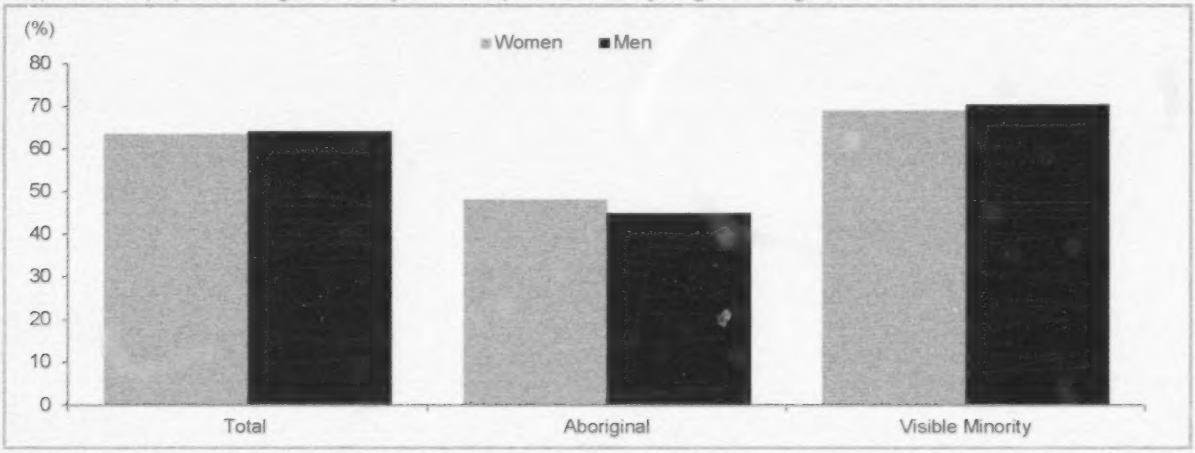
Education

Highest level of educational attainment

- In 2011, the majority of women (63.7%) and men in Alberta (64.1%) reported having postsecondary education (i.e., postsecondary degrees, diplomas or certificates). Women and men in Canada had generally the same level of postsecondary attainment (64.8% and 63.4%, respectively).
- Approximately one in eight people living in Alberta did not have any type of diploma or degree (including a high school diploma). This proportion was greater among Aboriginal women (29.0%) and Aboriginal men (31.9%). Similar proportions were observed at the national level.
- Women in Alberta were less likely than men to not have a diploma or degree (11.4% of women compared to 13.2% of men). The opposite was true for visible minority populations, where 12.2% of women did not have a diploma or degree compared to 10.3% of men.
- In 2011, the proportion of women whose highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma in Alberta (24.9%) was higher than that of men (22.7%). Similarly, a high school diploma was the highest level of education for more women (23.6%) than men (22.8%) in Canada.
- In Alberta, Aboriginal women (48.2%) had higher postsecondary attainment than Aboriginal men (44.9%). Similar proportions were observed for Aboriginal women and men across Canada.

Chart 1: Postsecondary attainment in Alberta

Proportion of population aged 25-64 years with postsecondary degree as highest level of education, Alberta, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

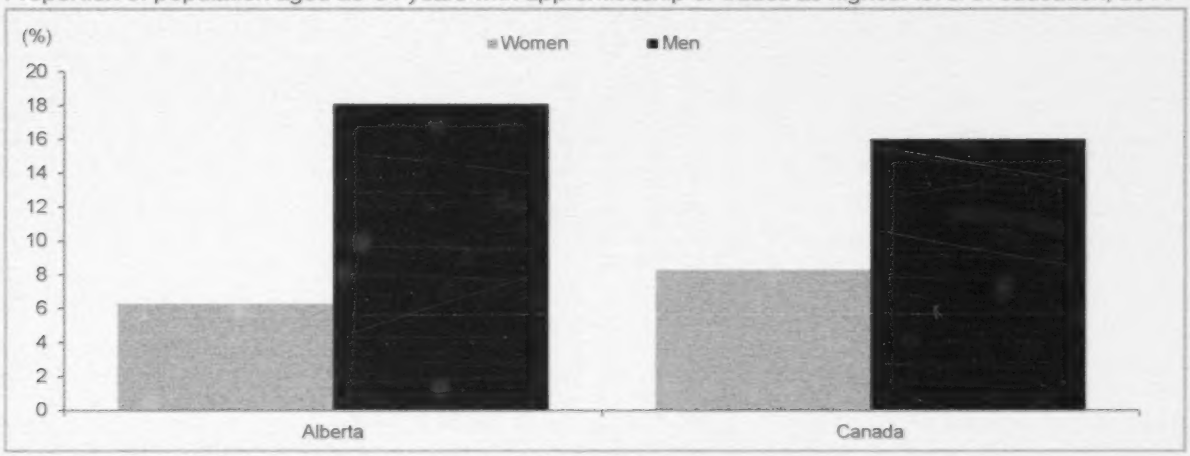
- Visible minority women and men in Alberta were more likely to have postsecondary education (69.1% and 70.5%, respectively) than all women and men in Alberta. These proportions are slightly higher than those of visible minorities at the national level.

Postsecondary attainment

- In 2011, a higher proportion of women had a college or non-university degree or diploma as their highest level of education than men in Alberta (24.6% and 18.2%, respectively) and across Canada (23.8% and 18.6%, respectively).
- In Alberta, men were around three times more likely than women to have an apprenticeship or trade accreditation (18.1% compared to 6.3%). By comparison, men in Canada were about twice as likely as women to hold an apprenticeship or trade (16.0% compared to 8.3%). Similar proportions were observed for Aboriginal men and women in Alberta and Canada.
- Visible minority individuals in Alberta had lower proportions of apprenticeships and trades accreditation (7.8% of men and 4.1% of women). At the national level, these proportions were slightly lower for men (7.3%), but higher for women (5.5%).
- In Alberta, the proportions of visible minority individuals with a university degree at the bachelor level or above (40.3% of women and 41.2% of men) were higher than the overall provincial proportions (27.3% of women and 23.9% of men).
- More Aboriginal females had a bachelor and above degrees as their highest level of education (10.6%) than their Aboriginal male counterparts in Alberta (6.1%). This was also true for Canada as a whole.

Chart 2: Apprenticeship or trades attainment was higher for men in Alberta and Canada

Proportion of population aged 25-64 years with apprenticeship or trades as highest level of education, 2011



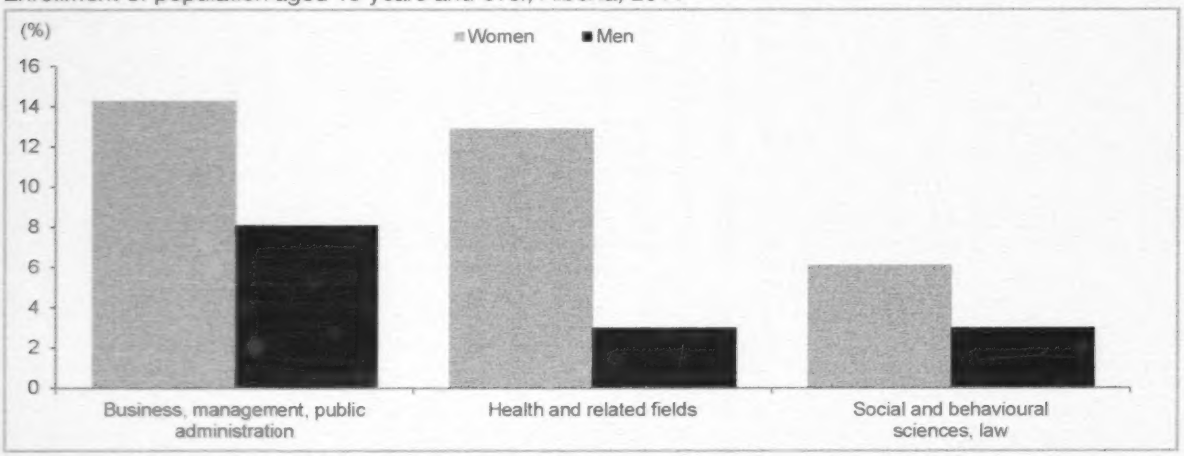
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Top postsecondary fields of study

- In 2011, three categories were included in the top four lists of fields of study for men and women in Alberta (based on the highest proportion of individuals enrolled): business, management and public administration (8.1% of men and 14.3% of women), health and related fields (3.0% of men and 12.9% of women), and social and behavioural sciences and law (3.0% of men and 6.1% of women).
- Education was one of the top four fields of study that applied to women only (6.3% of women compared to 2.1% of men enrolled). Architecture, engineering, and related technologies had the highest enrollment of men, but was not in the top four list for women (26.5% of men compared to 2.6% of women).
- For visible minority men in Alberta, mathematics, computer and information sciences (4.3%) replaced social and behavioural sciences and law (3.7%) in the top four fields of study.
- In 2011, business, management, and public administration was the top field of study for all women (14.3%), Aboriginal women (11.5%) and visible minority women in Alberta (16.0%). This was also the top category for women at the national level.
- Architecture, engineering, and related technologies was the top field of study for men in Alberta, accounting for 26.5% of male postsecondary attainment. This category was also the top category for Aboriginal (19.4%) and visible minority men (25.3%). At the national level, this category accounted for 22.0% of male postsecondary attainment.

Chart 3: Women and men in Alberta share three of four top postsecondary fields of study

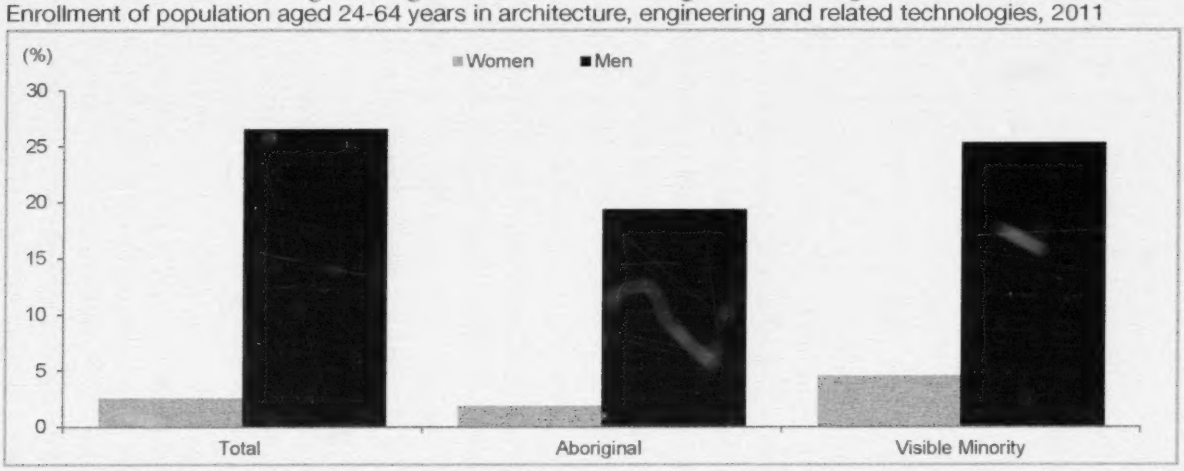
Enrollment of population aged 15 years and over, Alberta, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Chart 4: Architecture, engineering, and related technologies was the top field for men in Alberta

Enrollment of population aged 24-64 years in architecture, engineering and related technologies, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Table 1: Highest level of postsecondary attainment

Alberta and Canada, 2011

Category of Postsecondary	Total		Aboriginal		Visible Minority	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
Alberta Women						
Apprenticeship or trades	64,200	6.3	4,035	7.5	7,950	4.1
College; CEGEP/ other certificate or diploma	249,275	24.6	13,910	25.9	30,625	15.9
University - below bachelor	54,415	5.4	2,235	4.2	16,720	8.7
University - bachelor & above	276,500	27.3	5,700	10.6	77,395	40.3
Alberta Men						
Apprenticeship or trades	184,955	18.1	10,745	22.1	14,195	7.8
College; CEGEP/ other certificate or diploma	186,075	18.2	7,140	14.7	25,405	13.9
University - below bachelor	40,740	4.0	965	2.0	14,020	7.7
University - bachelor & above	244,180	23.9	2,945	6.1	75,275	41.2
Canada Women						
Apprenticeship or trades	783,410	8.3	33,645	9.4	100,430	3.9
College; CEGEP/ other certificate or diploma	2,238,895	23.8	88,600	24.8	319,460	12.5
University - below bachelor	508,765	5.4	15,350	4.3	160,120	6.3
University - bachelor & above	2,555,420	27.2	43,220	12.1	678,260	26.5
Canada Men						
Apprenticeship or trades	1,435,395	16.0	62,815	20.0	121,010	5.1
College; CEGEP/ other certificate or diploma	1,674,815	18.6	50,000	15.9	240,575	10.2
University - below bachelor	385,980	4.3	8,255	2.6	129,300	5.5
University - bachelor & above	2,200,000	24.5	22,875	7.3	651,945	27.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey